REMARKS

Is response to the Final Office Action mailed February 15, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, each of the rejections set forth in the Office Action has been carefully considered and is addressed below. The application as presented is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 65-78 as purportedly being unpatentable over Stuart (U.S. Pub. 2005/0055519, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,107,416). In view of the amendments to independent claims 65, 70, and 75, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

Each of these independent claims has been amended to require that the retention period for a unit of content is stored in the content of the unit of content, that the request to delete the unit of content identify the unit of content using a content address generated, at least in part, from at least a portion of the unit of content, and that the portion of the unit of content used in generating the content address include the retention period.

Support for these limitations can be found in numerous places in Applicants' specification, including, for example: page 8, line 24 – page 9, line 6 and Figure 3, which describe that the content of a unit of content may include a retention period; page 2, lines 20-27, which describe that a unit of content may be identified using a content address computed from the content of the unit of content; and page 14, lines 24-28 and Figure 4, which describe issuing a request to delete a unit of content that identifies the unit of content using its content address.

As discussed in Applicants' specification at page 7, lines 13-30, in some embodiments, computing the content address from the portion of the content of a unit of content that includes the retention period may be useful in verifying that the retention has not changed (i.e., been corrupted or altered) since its creation. That is, when a content unit is accessed, it can be determined whether its content has been modified by re-computing the content address. If the re-computed content address does not match the original content address it may be determined that the content of the content unit has changed. It should be appreciated that, though in some embodiments, content addresses of content units may be recomputed to determine whether the

content of the content units has changed, the invention is not limited in this respect, as the invention does not require any such re-computation of content addresses.

Stuart does not disclose or suggest that a retention period for a unit of content is stored in the content of the unit of content. Rather, Stuart discloses that the retention period for a file is determined based on the name of the directory in which the file is stored (Stuart, ¶0025). That is, as shown in Figure 2 of Stuart, directories in a file system are given names that include a retention period. A file is assigned the retention period indicated in the name of the directory in which it resides by virtue of being stored in that directory (Stuart, ¶0025). Thus, in Stuart, the retention period for a file is not stored in the content of the file, but rather is indicated by the directory name of the directory in which the file is stored.

In addition, Stuart does not disclose or suggest receiving a request to delete a unit of content that identifies a unit of content using a content address that is computed, at least in part, based on at least a portion of the content of the unit of content. Rather, in the system of Stuart, requests to access files are generated through a file system user interface (Stuart, ¶0023). Thus, in the system of Stuart, access requests appear to identify files based on file system path names (i.e., directory names and file names) that identify the location and name of the relevant files in the file system (*see* Stuart, ¶0030).

As Stuart does not disclose that a request identifies a unit of content using a content address that is computed based on at least a portion of the content of the unit of content, Stuart necessarily does not disclose that the portion of the content from which the content address is generated includes the retention period.

As should be appreciated from the foregoing, Stuart does not disclose the limitations of independent claims 65, 70, 75 that require that the retention period for a unit of content is stored in the content of the unit of content, that the request to delete the unit of content identify the unit of content using a content address generated, at least in part, from at least a portion of the unit of content, and that the portion of the unit of content used in generating the content address include the retention period. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 66-69 depend from claim 65, claims 71-74 depend from claim 70, and claims 76-78 depend from claim 75. Each of these claims is patentable for at least the same reasons as its respective independent claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.
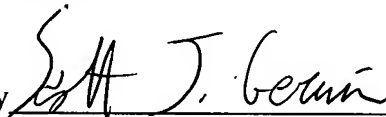
CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: Respectfully submitted,

By _____
Scott J. Gerwin
Registration No.: 57,866
WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.
Federal Reserve Plaza
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
(617) 646-8000

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